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RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0849
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 4409
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7940
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
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DEPT FOR EAP/MLS, DRL, AND IO
PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/21/2018

TAGS: PGOV PREL PHUM BM

SUBJECT: AUNG SAN SUU KYI'S MEETING WITH REGIME LIAISON

Classified By: P/E Chief Leslie Hayden for Reasons 1.4 (b) & (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Regime liaison Aung Kyi used his January 11 meeting with ASSK to scold her for not responding to Than Shwe's previous demands. He told her the senior generals were suspicious of her because the statement she released through Gambari was similar to the points UN Special Envoy Gambari made during his meetings with regime officials in Nay Pyi Taw. ASSK requested she be allowed to meet with liaisons from her party. She told her doctor Aung Kyi was trying to arrange a meeting for her with a high-level regime official, not necessarily Than Shwe. Aung Kyi gave no indication when any future meetings between ASSK and the regime would occur. End summary.

¶2. (C) UK Poloff Ruth Bradley-Jones recently met with Douglas, Aung San Suu Kyi's physician, and passed on a readout of ASSK's January 11 meeting with regime liaison Aung Kyi. Douglas said ASSK characterized the meeting as "difficult" because Aung Kyi has no power to make decisions on behalf of the senior generals and was simply a messenger. During the January 11 meeting, Aung Kyi criticized ASSK for not responding to Than Shwe's demand that she renounce international sanctions and her "support for utter devastation." He noted the senior generals were "suspicious of her" because the statement she released through Special Envoy Gambari was so similar to the points Gambari had made during his meetings with regime officials in Nay Pyi Taw. Aung San Suu Kyi responded that her message was similar because she fully supported Gambari's position.

¶3. (C) Aung San Suu Kyi requested that she be allowed to meet with the two NLD members she had designated as her liaisons, U Nyan Win and U Myint Thein, both before and after her meetings with Aung Kyi. She indicated to Douglas that Aung Kyi was trying to arrange a meeting between her and a high-level regime member, but not necessarily Than Shwe. ASSK said she was not opposed to meeting with someone other than Than Shwe, but that it must be the beginning of a genuine dialogue and not just a conversation with another "messenger." Aung Kyi gave no indication of when this meeting would take place, or when any further meetings between him and Aung San Suu Kyi would occur.

¶4. (C) Aung San Suu Kyi told her doctor she did not want details of her latest meeting with Aung Kyi to be shared with the NLD "Uncles," because she felt their public statements and overall response to her previous meetings with the regime had been "overly optimistic."

¶5. (C) Comment: Aung Kyi's latest meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi brought nothing new other than more regime excuses for further delaying the initiation of a genuine dialogue. As with most of their dealings inside and outside of Burma, the regime prefers to lecture, demand, and make excuses, rather than discuss realistic choices and hard compromises. Than Shwe wants the other side to begin with full concessions, after which he will decide whether or not to negotiate further. The current roadmap is clearly a one-way street.
End comment.

VILLAROSA